

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 16, 21, 27, and 29, and cancel claims 2-4, 8-12, 14, 17, 18, 22-26, 28, and 31-34 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a strong pass phrase, the method comprising:

obtaining a plurality of questions and a plurality of answers corresponding to the plurality of questions; [[and]]

combining the plurality of answers into a single pass phrase, wherein the plurality of answers are concatenated together with a fixed random value and a cryptographic hash function is applied to the concatenation to create a hashed answer;

storing the hashed answer on a remote server without storing the plurality of answers on the remote server; and

obtaining a retrieval question and a retrieval answer, the retrieval answer being used to display the plurality of questions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of questions are obtained by displaying a plurality of partial questions and obtaining completions to said plurality of partial questions.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pass phrase is used to wrap data to be stored in a remote server.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a pass phrase at a client

workstation, the method comprising:

displaying a plurality of ~~entries~~ fields for entering a plurality of pass phrase answers, a field for entering a retrieval answer, the retrieval answer being used to retrieve a plurality of questions the answers to which are the plurality of pass phrase answers, and a field for requesting a retrieval question, the answer to which is the retrieval answer;

displaying the retrieval question if the field for requesting the retrieval question is marked;

displaying the plurality of questions if the field for entering the retrieval answer is filled with the retrieval answer; and

combining the plurality of pass phrase answers into a single pass phrase, wherein the plurality of pass phrase answers are concatenated together with a fixed random value and a cryptographic hash function is applied to the concatenation.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended)      The method of claim 12 7, wherein a user having registered the set of retrieval questions is notified if anyone asks for the set of retrieval questions retrieval question.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended)      A computer readable medium for use in

conjunction with a client workstation and a server for creating a strong pass phrase, the computer readable medium including computer readable instructions encoded thereon for:

obtaining a plurality of questions and a plurality of answers corresponding to the plurality of questions; and

combining the plurality of answers into a single pass phrase, wherein the plurality of answers are concatenated together with a fixed random value and a cryptographic hash function is applied to the concatenation to create a hashed answer;

storing the hashed answer on a remote server without storing the plurality of answers on the remote server; and

obtaining a retrieval question and a retrieval answer, the retrieval answer being used to display the plurality of questions.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, further including computer readable instructions encoded thereon for ~~comprising~~ transmitting the plurality of questions to a remote server.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the plurality of questions are obtained by displaying a plurality of partial questions and obtaining completions to said plurality of partial questions.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the pass phrase is used to wrap data to be stored in a remote server.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for use in conjunction with a client workstation for providing a pass phrase at a client workstation, the computer readable medium including computer readable instructions encoded thereon for:

displaying a plurality of ~~entries~~ fields for entering a plurality of pass phrase answers, a field for entering a retrieval answer, the retrieval answer being used to retrieve a plurality of questions the answers to which are the plurality of pass phrase answers, and a field for requesting a retrieval question, the answer to which is the retrieval answer;

displaying the retrieval question if the field for requesting the retrieval question is marked;

displaying the plurality of questions if the field for entering the retrieval answer is filled with the retrieval answer; and

combining the plurality of pass phrase answers into a single pass phrase, wherein the plurality of pass phrase answers are concatenated together with a fixed random value and a cryptographic hash function is applied to the concatenation.

22 - 26 (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26 21, wherein a user having registered the set of retrieval questions is notified if anyone asks for the set of retrieval questions.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A client workstation comprising:

a processor;

a display connected to the processor;

a computer memory connected to the processor, the computer memory including:

a viewing program for rendering information received from a server on the display, the display displaying a plurality of ~~entries~~ fields for entering a plurality of pass phrase answers and an option for requesting a plurality of pass phrase questions corresponding to the plurality of the pass phrase of answers, and

a client program for combining the pass phrase answers to form a single pass phrase,

wherein if the option for requesting the set of the pass phrase questions is chosen, ~~an entry~~ a field for entering a retrieval answer and an option for requesting a retrieval question corresponding to the retrieval answer is displayed.

30. (Original) The client workstation of claim 29, wherein if the option for requesting the retrieval question is chosen, a request is formed and transmitted to the server, which authenticates the request and returns the retrieval question for display if authentication is successful, and if the retrieval answer is entered immediately or entered after the retrieval question is displayed, the validity of the retrieval answer is determined, and if the retrieval answer is determined to be valid, the pass phrase questions are displayed.

31-34 (Canceled)